Jute Policy

1501. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate a long term jute policy to help this sector catch - up with the currant favourable trend in the global market for the natural fibre; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Government propose to continue to reserve packaging of specified commodities in jute under the provision of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in packing Commodities) Act, 1987 to protect the traditionai market of jute goods in the packing sector. Government will continue to encourage modernisation in the Jute Industry through utilisation of the Jute Modernisation Fund. Government will continue to utilise the Special Jute Development Fund for the overall development of the jute sector. Government will also promote the production of value-added diversified jute products with view to develop new markets for jute goods and to increase exports.

Non-viable and Sick NTC Mills

1503. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Wiii the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to close down totally non-viable mills of the National Textile Corporation and amalgamate other sick mills into composite units so as to improve their viability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of NTC mills on sick list at present and since when; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to help these sick textile units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) In order to improve the performance of National Textile Corporation, various alternative including amalgamation etc. are under discussions at various levels. However, no decision has been taken in this regard.

(c) and (d). all NTC mills were basically sick mills taken over and subsequently nationaiised from time to time. As a strategy to make these mills viable, NTC has drawn a plan which is to be implemented during the 8th Plan period (1992-97) by way of restructuring/modernising/amaigamating etc. of these mills into viable units.

Reserved Land in Cantonment Areas

1504. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the policy regarding reserved land in Cantonment areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is no land in Cantonments known as "reserved land". If the reference is to lands in the Bungalow areas which have been generally earmarked for future military use for release to civilians, there is presently no proposal to review the policy in this regard.

Effect of New Trade Policy on Transformers Industry

1505. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: